



**CMEAA**  
COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EASTERN  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
M I C H I G A N

## **Meeting Minutes**

May 9th, 2018, 12:00 P.M.

Arab American National Museum – The Annex  
13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Manal Saab, Chair  
Michael Romaya, Vice-Chair  
Suzanne Sukkar, Secretary  
Susan Dabaja, Trustee at Large  
Bing Goei, Ex-Officio  
Dave Abdallah

Ronald Haddad  
Fadwa Hammoud  
Adel Mozip  
Nabeel Obeid

#### **Commissioners Absent:**

Sharif Hussein, Second Vice-Chair, Lina Hourani-Harajli, Treasurer, Fay Beydoun  
Haifa Fakhouri, Abe Munfakh

Staff: Director Mike Zimmer (Cabinet Director, Gov.), Nicholas Payne (Cabinet Liason, Gov), Raya Fares (CMEAA Coordinator)

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Manal Saab at 12:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: Commissioner Sukkar moved to accept the agenda. Motion supported by Commissioner Dabaja. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION: Commissioner Sukkar moved to accept the minutes of February 8<sup>h</sup> 2018. Motion supported by Commissioner Romaya. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Coordinator Raya Fares noted that LARA's finance department had not yet finalized CMEAA's spending report, as several encumbrances were still being settled. A spending report will be emailed to the commissioners for review and the Treasurer's Report has been tabled until the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **V. LARA/MONA DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Director Bing Goei discussed the New Americans Appreciation Gala and the excitement the Governor has expressed in attending the event. This year's Gala will be hosted on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the Henry Hotel in Dearborn. Director Bing Goei has requested that the commissioners process their nominations for Awards. The deadline for award nominations has been extended until June 15<sup>th</sup>. Director Goei also urged commissioners to identify table sponsors for the Gala. The expectation is to have roughly 500 attendees and CMEAA has been tasked in recruiting at least 15 table sponsors.

Also on September 6<sup>th</sup> is the Joint Ethnic Commissions Meeting, which will be hosted from 12:30-2:00 also at The Henry Hotel in Dearborn. During that time, HLCOM, MAPAAC and CMEAA will all meet together to discuss the success of their commissions and their goals for the coming year.

Director Goei reminded the Commission that the Joint Legislative Committee has had a slight halt in its work due to its dependent on OPLA in LARA. As mentioned, OPLA is overwhelmed, and the JLC has now relying more on the Michigan Immigrant Rights Committee to stay on top of what bills are likely to affect our community.

Director Goei provided the commission with copies of the MONA News Connection.

Coordinator Raya Fares provided the commission with information on the New Americans Appreciation Gala and Award Nominations. The awards criteria and nominations forms have been emailed to the commission and an additional email with more information will be sent following the meeting.

Director Zimmer mentioned his appreciation for hosting the Census committee at our meeting as he believes CMEAA can help encourage our communities to participate in the census.

Director Zimmer reminded the commission to make suggestions to Governor Appointed Commissions. The Governor's Office needs CMEAA's help to ensure that our community is well represented. There are several public positions available as well.

Director Zimmer mentioned that less than 500 refugees have arrived in the fiscal year to date, versus 4,500 in previous years. This is having significant repercussions on the Refugee Service Agencies and their funding.

## **VI. ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM/ZYARA**

Dr. Matthew Stiffler from the Arab American National Museum presented a proposal for \$50,000 to support classroom visits to the AANM from under-resourced schools in Michigan during the 2018-2019 school year. The funds will provide 35 fully subsidized half-day cultural competency workshops beginning Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 and ending June 1, 2019, for school groups with a deliberate focus on under-resourced districts.

**MOTION: Commissioner Sukkar moved to commit \$50,000 of CMEAA's 2018 budget to support the Arab American National Museum's efforts to bring students to the museum. Commissioner Abdallah moved to support the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

**VII. 2018 NEW AMERICANS APPRECIATION GALA**

Coordinator Raya Fares provided the commission with details of the 2018 New Americans Appreciation Gala following Director Goei's Report on the Gala.

**VIII. MICHIGAN NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION/2020 CENSUS**

Hassan Jaber gave a brief presentation on the crucial nature of the 2020 Census. He mentioned that there are several things at risk when a complete count is not made including Medicare/Medicaid/Health Centers, SNAP/WIC/School Lunch, Housing and much more. Joan Gustafson also echoed the need for our community to participate in the upcoming census, as not only are our resources threatened, but also a congressional seat if we don't have a complete count in 2020.

The Michigan Nonprofit Association has invited Commissioners to join and become a member of the Complete Count Committee.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Director Bing Goei reminded the commissioners of the mandates in the Commission's Executive Order and asked that when the Commission reviews budgetary restrictions, that CMEAA's work aligns with those mandates.

**XI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m. by Chair Saab.



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Suzanne K. Sukkar, Secretary



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Manal B. Saab, Chair